AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant is adding herewith one (1) new sheet of drawings, which includes FIG. 3.

Attachment: One New Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 7, and 8 to further clarify the invention. By this Amendment, Applicant also adds claims 12 and 13, which are clearly supported throughout the specification, *e.g.*, ¶¶ 27 and 32.

I.   Preliminary Matters

As preliminary matters, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority and for indicating receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for returning the initialed form PTO/SB/08 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 13, 2004.

II.   Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner has objected to the drawings and the specification. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and claims 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

III.   Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings filed on January 2, 2004. Applicant adds Figure 3. Features of Figure 3 are clearly supported throughout the specification. In view of this added figure, Applicant amends the specification accordingly and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection to the drawings. No new matter is being added.

IV.   Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has also objected to the title of the application as being allegedly non-descriptive, and containing legal words such as "method", and to the Abstract because allegedly it contains legal phraseology (*see* page 3 of the Office Action).

With respect to the Examiner's objection, Applicant respectfully traverses the allegation that "method" is legal terminology that cannot be present in the Abstract or the Title and points out to the Examiner that a large percentage of applications claiming methods include the word "method" in the title, including USP 5,539,909, which is the primary reference cited by the Examiner in the present Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw these objections or to cite support for the allegation that the term "method" is legal phraseology that cannot be present in the Abstract and the Title.

By this Amendment, Applicant amends the title to more descriptively set forth the invention.

V.   Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter.

With respect to claims 1-7, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection in view of the self-explanatory claim amendments being made herein.

With respect to claims 8-11, Applicant respectfully submits that they are directed to a combination of software and hardware (*e.g.*, transmission link and data processing units) and as such do not constitute software per se and do not invoke the tangible result requirement.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw these rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

VI.   Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,539,909 to Tanaka et al. (hereinafter "Tanaka") in view of "Inside CORBA…" by Mowbray et al. (hereinafter "Mowbray"), claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka and Mowbray in view of "Workflow Template Process Template." (hereinafter "Workflow Reference"), and claims 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka. Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejections in view of the following comments.

Independent claims 1, 7, and 8 *inter alia* and in some variation recite: assigning an external identifier for each module that has been changed by linking new external identifier to the internal identifier of a respective module, and storing the new assigned external identifier in the conversion table while deleting a link to the internal identifier for an old external identifier of the respective module.

For example, an exemplary, non limiting embodiment of the present invention relates to ensuring reliable access to objects even when the configuration of the objects changes. When an object is changed, an external identifier is assigned to the object, and, using this external identifier (depending on whether it has a corresponding internal identifier), remote units can still find and access the changed objects. In other words, the external identifiers are changed with the internal identifiers remaining unchanged. Accordingly, when a remote unit is trying to access an

old object, no internal identifier will correspond to the external identifier of the old object and

the object will remain unprocessed (¶¶ 27 to 31 of the specification). It will be appreciated that

the foregoing remarks relate to the invention in a general sense, the remarks are not necessarily

limitative of any claims and are intended only to help the Examiner better understand the

distinguishing aspects of the claims mentioned above.

Tanaka, on the other hand, relates to accessing distributed functions in a network via a

linking table. Specifically, in Tanaka, changes at the server are carried out without any program

change at the client *i.e.*, using a link identifier. That is, there may be a procedure change, an

argument change, etc. at the server but the client object will remain unchanged (col. 2, line 26 to

col. 3, line 57). Mowbray broadly discloses handling of errors during invocations (*e.g.*, when an

object being requested cannot be found). The Workflow Reference discloses time stamping a

message.

That is, the references cited by the Examiner do not disclose or suggest creating a

situation where a table would have a field with just the name object and no pointer to a location

of the object. In other words, the combined disclosure of these references fails to suggest storing

a new external identifier with a location to the object while storing the old external identifier

without the location. There is no disclosure or suggestion of deleting a link so that a location to

the object is not found for the external identifier.

For at least these exemplary reasons, claims 1, 7, and 8 are patentable over the prior art of

record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection of

claims 1, 7, and 8. Claims 2-6 and 9-11 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1 or 8.
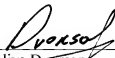
VII.   New Claims

In order to provide more varied protection, Applicant adds claims 12 and 13, which are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

VIII.   Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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